

NEWS RELEASE | FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE | July 31, 2021

Multiple Vehicle Fatal Crash

What: Fatal Crash
Where: US52, mile marker 113, four miles west of Velva, McHenry County
When: 7/30/2021, at approximately 3:21pm
Road Conditions: Asphalt – Dry
Weather Conditions: Overcast, smoke, about 90 degrees
Crash Involvement: Four vehicles
Type of Crash: Front to rear, same lane; Front to side, oncoming lane
Agencies Involved: ND Highway Patrol, McHenry County Sheriff, Ward County Sheriff, Velva Fire, Sawyer Fire, Velva Ambulance, Minot Community Ambulance

Vehicle No. 1: White 2019 Chevrolet Trax
Driver No. 1: Brent Johnson, Minot - *Deceased*
Restraints: Airbags deployed, seatbelt in use
Passenger No. 1: Casey Savelkoul, Minot – injured/transported
Restraints: Airbags deployed, seatbelt in use

Vehicle No. 2: Gray/Black 2017 Chevrolet Impala
Driver No. 2: Caleb Hegseth, Minot – potential injuries/not transported
Restraints: Airbags deployed, seatbelt in use
Passenger No. 1: Diana Cervantes, Minot – injured/transported
Restraints: Airbags deployed, seatbelt in use

Vehicle No. 3: White 2018 Nissan Titan
Driver No. 3: Christopher Wherley, Velva – injured/transported
Restraints: Airbags deployed, seatbelt in use
Passenger No. 3: Juvenile male – injured/transported
Restraints: Airbags deployed, seatbelt in use

Vehicle No. 4: White 2020 Ram 1500
Driver No. 4: Nicole Ramage, Columbus, ND - Uninjured
Restraints: Airbag not deployed - seatbelt in use
Passenger No. 4: Troy Ramage, Columbus, ND - Uninjured
Restraints: Airbags not deployed, seatbelt in use

NARRATIVE:

The Chevrolet Trax and Impala were both eastbound on US-52. The Nissan and Ram were westbound on US-52. The crash happened about 4 miles west of Velva, near mile marker 113. The Trax struck the rear of the Impala as the Trax changed lanes to pass. The Impala and Trax both spun out on the roadway. The Trax was struck broadside by the Nissan. The Impala came to rest in the east ditch. The rear portion of the Trax came to rest in the west ditch. The front portion of the Trax came to rest on the east shoulder. The Nissan came to rest broadside on the center line of US-52. The Ram was originally traveling directly behind the Nissan. The Ram turned into the east ditch to evade the Trax and Nissan but was struck by debris and ran over a delineator post.

The driver of the Trax was ejected from the vehicle. The driver of the Trax was pronounced deceased at Trinity Hospital. The passenger of the Trax, the driver and passenger of the Nissan, and the passenger from the Impala were all transported by ambulance to Trinity Hospital in Minot. The driver of the Impala declined to be transported and did not appear to be injured. There were no injuries to the occupants of the Ram.

US-52 was closed for investigation and cleanup for approximately 3 hours 40 minutes, from 3:21pm to 7:04pm. Traffic was rerouted onto county roads and ND-41.

This crash is pending investigation by the North Dakota Highway Patrol.

For More Information Contact:

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